

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A porous resilient organic polymer product comprising a reduced particle size resilient non-spherical elongated porous organic polymer particles having a mean particle size less than about 150 microns and a plurality of open cell pores having an average pore size distribution of from about 0.02 to about 15 microns which pores represent at least about 40% of the total volume of the particles, ~~said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles produced by the process comprising (1) forming an aqueous particle slurry comprising a major amount of water and a minor amount of larger size organic polymer particles said water being present in at least a part of the pores of the larger size organic polymer particles to provide resistance to particle compressibility and external to said larger size particles to form a slurry, (2) subjecting the aqueous slurry to a cutting action by contact with a plurality of cutting surfaces to reduce the mean particle size of the larger size organic polymer particles and (3) recovering said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles.~~

Claim 2 (previously amended): The product of Claim 1 wherein the average pore size is from about 0.075 microns to about 10 microns.

Claim 3 (original): The product of Claim 1 wherein the reduced mean particle size is less than about 100 microns.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): The product of Claim 1 wherein the porous organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The product of Claim 2 -4wherein the porous organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The product of Claim 3 -5 wherein the porous organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A porous resilient organic polymer product comprising a reduced particle size resilient non-spherical elongated porous organic polymer particles having a mean particle size less than about 150 microns and open cell pores having an average pore size distribution of from about 0.02 to about 15 microns which pores represent at least about 40% of the total volume of the particles and a liquid functional additive agent absorbed contained in at least a part of said pores, said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles produced by the process comprising (1) forming an aqueous particle slurry comprising a major amount of water and a minor amount of larger size organic polymer particles said water being present in at least a part of the pores of larger size organic polymer particles to provide resistance to particle compressibility and external to said larger size particles to form a slurry, (2) subjecting the aqueous slurry to a cutting action by contact with a plurality of cutting surfaces to reduce the mean particle size of the larger size organic polymer particles and (3) recovering said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles.

Claim 10 (original): The product of Claim 9 wherein the organic polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The product of Claim 12 wherein the organic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A porous resilient organic polymer product comprising a reduced particle size free flowing powder of resilient non-spherical elongated porous organic polymer particles having a mean particle size less than about 150 microns and open cell pores having an average pore size distribution of from about 0.02 to about 15 microns which pores represent at least about 40% of the total volume of the particles resilient non-spherical elongated porous and a liquid functional additive agent absorbed contained in at least a part of said pores, said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles produced by the process comprising (1) forming an aqueous particle slurry comprising a major amount of water and a minor amount of larger size organic polymer particles said water being present in at least a part of the pores of larger size organic polymer particles to provide resistance to particle compressibility and external to said larger size particles to form a slurry, (2) subjecting the aqueous slurry to a cutting action by contact with a plurality of cutting surfaces to reduce the mean particle size of the

~~larger size organic polymer particles and (3) recovering said resilient non-spherical elongated porous particles.~~

Claim 17 (original): The product of Claim 16 wherein the organic polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (original): The product of Claim 17 wherein the organic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 21 (previously amended): The product of Claim 9 wherein the average pore size is from about 0.075 microns to about 10 microns and the reduced mean particle size is less than about 100 microns.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The product of Claim 16 wherein the average pore size is from about 0.075 microns to about 10 microns and the reduced mean particle size is less than about 100 microns.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's communication mailed September 24, 2003. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on October 21, 2003 and the recommendation to file a REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION.

Applicant is submitting a copy of the specification of application serial No. 09/167,320, now US patent 6,224,003, which first claimed the products of applicant's invention, claims 16 to 29, which claims were subject to a restriction requirement.

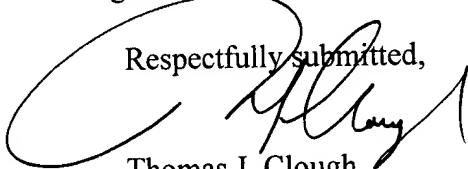
Applicant in the Second Amendment under Rule 116 set forth the necessary support in application serial No. 09/167,320 and United States Patent 5,895,732 for the present amended claim. As pointed out in that amendment, all of the applications for which Applicant is claiming the benefit of the filing date have always had copendency as between applications claiming the benefit of such filing dates. In addition, the inventor is the same in all applications. However Applicant did not specifically set forth the support for this amendment that is present in above identified application. More particularly, amended independent Claims 1, 9 and 16 claim porous resilient organic polymer product which comprise "a reduced particle size" and uses term "liquid contained". Specific support for the term "reduced particle size" is found page 1, line 8, page 2, line 20 and page 3, lines 4 and 5. Specific support for the term "liquid contained in the pores" is found at page 9, lines 6 to 10 and page 10, line 32, the same wording as in the specification of application serial No. 09/167,320, now US patent 6,224,003. Applicant submits that the present claims are fully supported by the earlier filed applications for which Applicant has claimed the benefit of the filing date.

As set forth in the Second Amendment under Rule 116, specific support for the term "reduced particle size" is found at column 2, line 16, United States Patent 6,224,003 and column 16, line 5, United States Patent 5,895,732 and for the term "liquid contained in the pores" is found at column 5, lines 10-23 of United States Patent 6,224,003 and at column 5, line 9, column 9, lines 30-32 and column 16, lines 10-12 of United States Patent 5,895,732.

In conclusion Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable and allowable and respectfully requests the Examiner to forward this application to issuance at an early date.

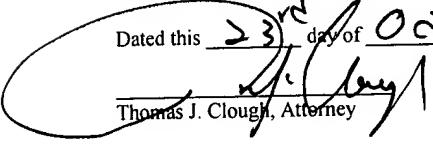
Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) Applicant's attorney at the numbers given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas J. Clough
Registration No. 22337
Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 718
Pismo Beach, California 93448
(805) 481-3750
Facsimile (805) 481-3452

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 29231 on or before Oct 23, 2003.

Dated this 23 day of Oct, 2003.


Thomas J. Clough, Attorney